



The Laurels Primary School

Pupil Premium Policy

January 2019

The Pupil Premium Grant is an allocation of additional funding given to schools in order to support specific groups of children who are vulnerable to possible underachievement. At The Laurels, our aim is for every child to reach at least national expectations in all areas.

The Pupil Premium is a government initiative that targets extra money at pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. Research shows that pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds underachieve compared to their peers. The Government has used pupils entitled to free school meals (FSM), looked after children and service children as indicators of disadvantage and has provided a fixed amount of money for schools based on the number of pupils registered.

The amount of Pupil Premium funding a school receives is calculated according to the number of pupils who meet the eligibility criteria set by the government. At The Laurels Primary this is approximately 24% of the children. The school is accountable for using this funding to raise the achievement of the less advantaged children in its community.

Context

When making decisions about using Pupil Premium funding it is important to consider the context of our school and the subsequent challenges faced. Common barriers to learning for disadvantaged children can be less support at home, weak language and communication skills, lack of confidence, behaviour difficulties and attendance and punctuality issues. There may also be complex family situations that prevent children from flourishing. The challenges are varied and there is no “one size fits all”.

We will ensure that all teaching staff are involved in the analysis of data and identification of pupils so they can overcome the children’s barriers to learning and ensure the best approach to accelerate the children’s learning and achievement.

Principles

- We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all the pupils.
- All our work through the pupil premium will be aimed at accelerating progress, moving children to at least age related expectations.
- Pupil premium resources may be used to target able children to achieve Above Age Related Expectations

- Pupil premium funding will be allocated following a needs analysis which will identify priority groups or individuals. Limited funding and resources means that not all children will necessarily be in receipt of pupil premium interventions at one time.
- In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that a minority of pupils who receive free school meals will not be socially disadvantaged.
- We also recognise that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals (FSM). It is worth noting that in West Sussex at least 25% of children who are entitled to FSM are not claiming. (“Pupils not claiming free school meals”: DfE Dec 2013). Therefore the school reserves the right to allocate the pupil premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged.

Provision

The range of provision the Governors consider making for this group will fall into 3 categories: attainment and progress, attendance and behaviour, and emotional well-being. For example:

- Providing small group work with an experienced teacher/teaching assistant focussed on accelerating progress by overcoming gaps in learning
- Additional teaching and learning opportunities provided through trained TAs or external agencies
- Additional learning support.
- Transition from primary to secondary.
- Ensuring children have first-hand experiences to use in their learning in the classroom by contributing to visits and residential.
- Support the funding of specialist learning software.
- Music provision
- Behaviour or therapeutic support.
- Professional development/training for staff to ensure quality first teaching.

Our strategies will change according to the needs and support our pupils require.

Reporting

It will be the responsibility of the headteacher, or a delegated member of staff, to produce regular reports for the Governing Body, which will include:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for socially disadvantaged pupils.
- An outline of the provision made since the last meeting.
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

The Governors of the school will ensure that there is an annual statement on how the Pupil Premium funding has been used to address the issue of ‘diminishing the difference’, for socially disadvantaged pupils. This task will be carried out within the requirements published by the Department for Education and will appear on our school website.

Pupil Premium Named Governor: Graham Lewendon